

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 9 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 5-8 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is amended and claim 9 is added. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by FR 2752110 to Roger et al. (hereinafter "Roger"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Roger fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Roger fails to disclose an ac generator for a vehicle, comprising: a housing including a drive frame, a rear frame and a rear cover; a rotor, supported by said housing, for providing a magnetic field; a cooling fan fixed to said rotor for taking cooling air from outside of the rear cover; a stator, supported by said housing and disposed around said rotor, said stator having a stator core in which a plurality of phase-windings is mounted to generate electromotive force when the magnetic field is supplied; and a rectifying unit disposed in the rear cover and formed by a bridge circuit which includes positive electrode side rectifying elements and negative electrode side rectifying elements respectively connected to the plurality of phase-windings, wherein the rectifying unit comprises a semicircular positive electrode side heat sink to which the positive electrode side rectifying elements are fixed and a semicircular negative electrode side heat sink to which the negative electrode side rectifying

elements are respectively fixed, respectively disposed in two planes that are perpendicular to a rotation axis of said rotor, wherein said negative electrode side heat sink comprises a pair of separate semicircular plates that have a larger outside diameter than the positive electrode side heat sink to utilize cooling air taken by said cooling fan from outside of the rear cover, and wherein one of the negative electrode side rectifying elements connected to at least a portion of the plurality of phase-windings is constituted of parallelly connected two elements that are respectively fixed to the semicircular members to equally divide current flowing therethrough, as recited in amended claim 1.

Roger was submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as part of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 19, 2004. An English-language version of the foreign search report that originally cited the Roger reference was provided as a statement of relevance. It appears that the reference is being relied upon for disclosing subject matter beyond that which is indicated in the foreign search report. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests an English-language translation of Roger be provided and until such time as the English-language reference is provided, that the rejection of any claims rejected under Roger be withdrawn because reliance upon a foreign language document in support of a rejection requires that the Examiner provide a translation so that the record is clear as to the precise facts the Examiner is relying upon in support of the rejection (see MPEP §706.02).

Additionally, even if viewing the figures as showing the features alleged in the Office Action, Roger fails to disclose any of 1) a rectifying unit that comprises a semicircular positive electrode side heat sink to which positive side electrode elements are fixed and a semicircular negative electrode side heat sink to which negative electrode elements are fixed respectively, 2) the semicircular heat sinks being disposed in two planes that are perpendicular to a rotation axis of the rotor, or 3) a negative electrode side heat sink that comprises a pair of separate semicircular plates that have a larger outside diameter than the

positive electrode side heat sink. Furthermore, it is clear from the figures of Roger that the reference fails to disclose one of the negative side electrode rectifying elements connected to at least a portion of the plurality of phase-windings that is constituted of parallelly connected two elements that are respectively fixed to the pair of semicircular members to equally divide current flowing therethrough. As Roger fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Roger in view of JP 648872 (JP 872); and claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Roger in view of U.S. Patent 6,184,602 to Ooiwa and U.S. Patent No. 3,739,209 to Drabik. As claims 5-8 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 2 and 3 is traversed.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2 and 3, the claims are allowable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Furthermore, JP 872 fails to overcome the deficiencies of Roger discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. New Claim

None of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claim 9. For example, none of the applied references whether considered alone or in combination disclose or suggest the ac generator for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the negative electrode side heat sink is disposed deeper in the rear cover than the positive electrode side heat sink.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 and 9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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